



Manchester Urban Ponds Restoration Program

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www.ci.manchester.nh.us/UrbanPonds

Have You Seen These Culprits? Exotic Plants of Crystal Lake



Common Reed (*Phragmites communis*)

- Native to Europe.
- Erect stems can grow up to 15 feet high and end in dense floral heads.
- Floral heads are purplish when young and white or light brown and feathery when mature.
- Flowers from late July through October.
- Long, pointed green leaves grow up to 2 feet long and 2 inches wide.
- Stands of common reed disperse seeds, or pieces of underground stems, called rhizomes.
- Once established, stands grow predominately by sending up new shoots each spring from existing rhizomes, or from runners.
- If stem is knocked over it can act like a rhizome by taking root and producing new shoots.
- Grows in sunny, wetland habitats.
- Also found in fresh marshes, pond margins, swamps, and ditches.
- Can also tolerate brackish and saline waters.
- Prevalent in wet areas that have disturbed or polluted soils.
- Human activities such as road and housing development have made the invasion quite successful in adjacent wetland areas.

Bush Honeysuckle - Tartarian spp. (*Lonicera tartarica*)

- Native to Asia and western Europe.
- Introduced to North America as an ornamental in 1752 and late 1800's.
- Grow in a broad range of habitats with varying moisture and shade levels.
- Woodlands are most susceptible to invasion, especially if the area is already disturbed.
- Grow mostly in or near large urban areas, but rural infestations have occurred where the species were introduced to provide wildlife with cover and a food source.
- Distribution is aided by birds, which consume the ripened fruit in summer and disperse the seeds over long distances.
- Their vigorous growth inhibits development of native shrub and ground layer species
- Honeysuckles may entirely replace native species by shading and depleting soil moisture and nutrients.



Glossy Buckthorn (*Rhamnus frangula*)

- Native of Europe.
- Shrub or small tree that produces small dark fruits.
- Fruits occur singly or in small groups.
- Birds which eat fruits cause spread of plant.
- Grows in fens, marshes, and bogs.
- Also grows in forests, fencerows, wood edges, prairies, and old fields.
- When plant invades a natural area it displaces the native species by the dense shade produced by the stand.



Japanese Barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*)

- Native of Japan.
- Imported to North American in 1864.
- Seeds were later sent to the Arnold Arboretum (Boston) in about 1875.
- Deciduous shrub growing to 6 feet with arching branches of dense foliage of small rounded leaves atop short spines.
- Yellow flowers produce bright red oblong berries that develop in late summer and persist into winter.
- Seeds dispersed by birds have spread it from cultivated gardens and yards to pastures, woodlands, ledges, and floodplains where it grows equally well in sun or shade.
- In young forests, Barberry forms thorny thickets that shade out native plants.

